

REMARKS

Applicant has the following response to the Office Action of January 13, 2005.

Drawings

In the Office Action, the Examiner is requiring that Figs. 2-10 be labeled as -- Prior Art -- . Applicant has now done so as shown in the attached annotated sheets and replacement sheets.

The Examiner also objects to the drawings for informalities in the numbers and lettering. Accordingly, Applicant has prepared formal drawings and is submitting them herewith. As no changes are being made to these drawings other than formalizing them, no annotated drawings are being submitted herewith of Figs. 1 and 11-37.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the formal drawings be entered, and the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 1-3, 9, 35, 36, 57 and 66

The Examiner also rejects Claims 1-3, 9, 35, 36, 57 and 66 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over “Applicant’s admitted prior art” in view of Ohzu et al. (US publication 2002/0167601). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While Applicant traverses this rejection, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicant is amending independent Claims 1, 35 and 57 to recite “wherein an absolute value of a voltage between a gate and a source of the biasing transistor is equivalent to a minimum value of an absolute value of a voltage between a gate and a source that is necessary for making the

biasing transistor into a conductive state.”

This feature was the subject of dependent Claims 5, 38 and 62 (now canceled) which the Examiner has stated in the Office Action contains allowable subject matter as the prior art fails to teach or suggest this feature. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 35 and 57, and those claims dependent thereon, are patentable, and it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 10-14

The Examiner also rejects Claims 10-14 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohzu in view of Silver et al. (US 6,690,842). This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

Each of these claims is a dependent claim. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above for the independent claims, these claims are also patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and should be allowed.

If any further fee is due for this amendment, please charge our deposit account no. 50-1039.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark J. Murphy', is written over a horizontal line.

Mark J. Murphy
Registration No. 34,225

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

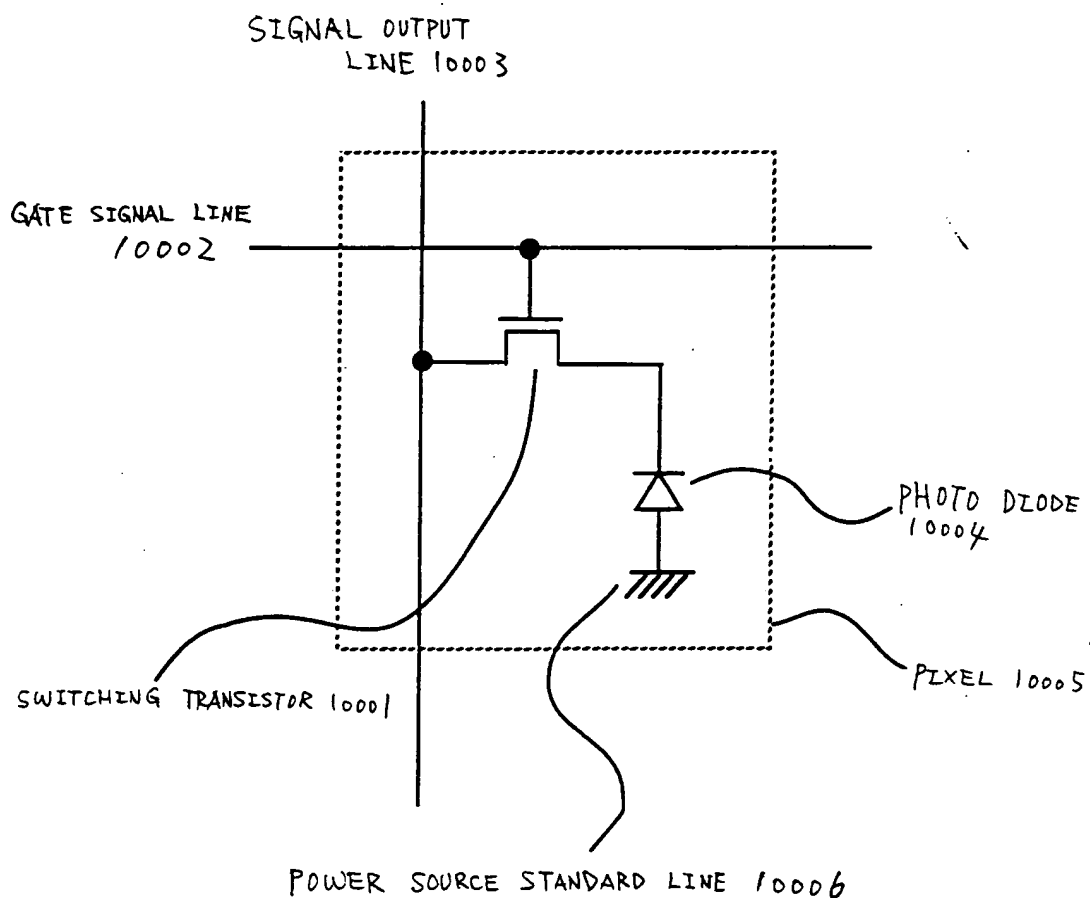
The attached sheets of drawings include changes to the drawings to label Figures 2-10
- - prior art - - and to correct informalities in the drawings include the numbering and lettering used
in the drawings.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes



Fig. 2
PRIOR ART



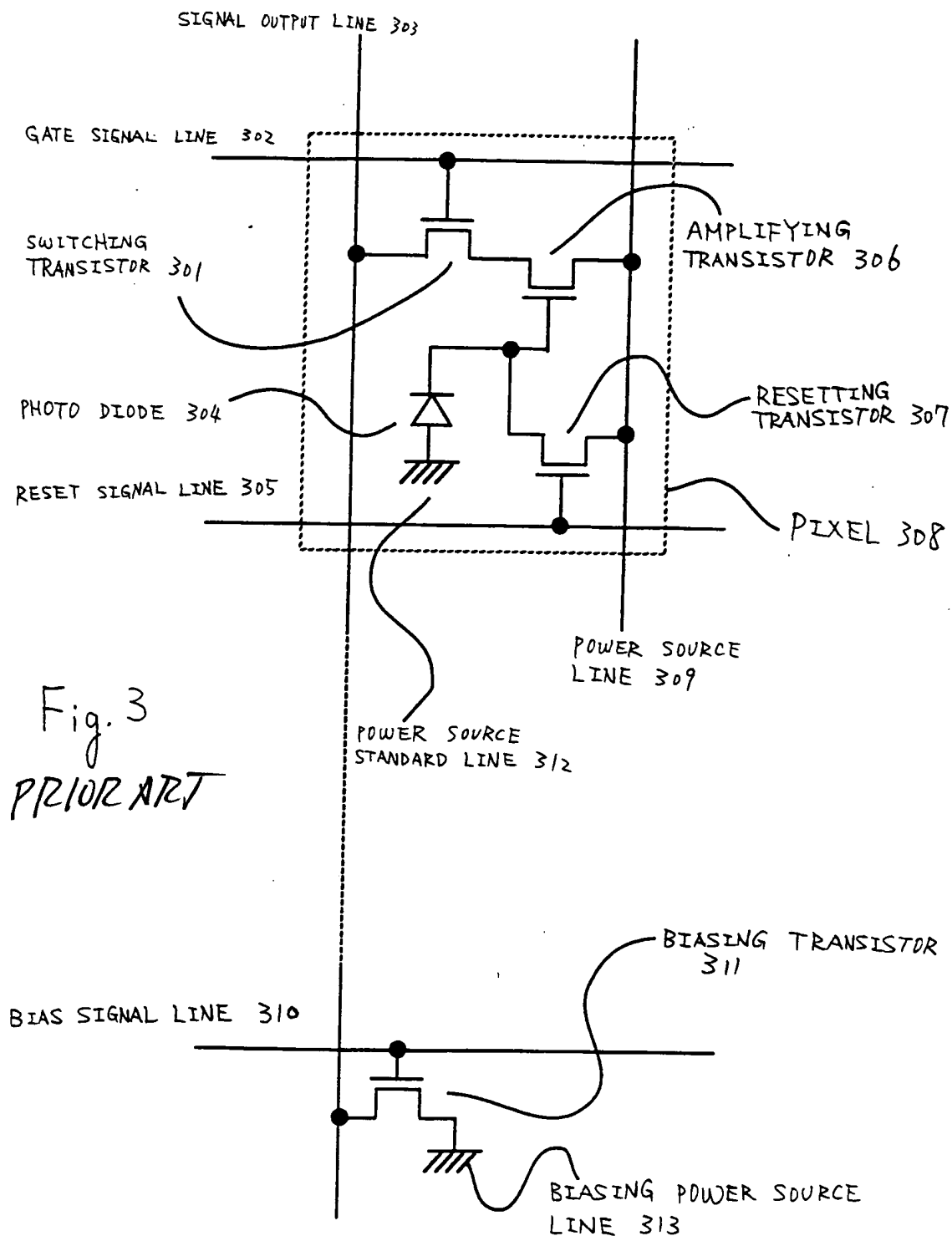
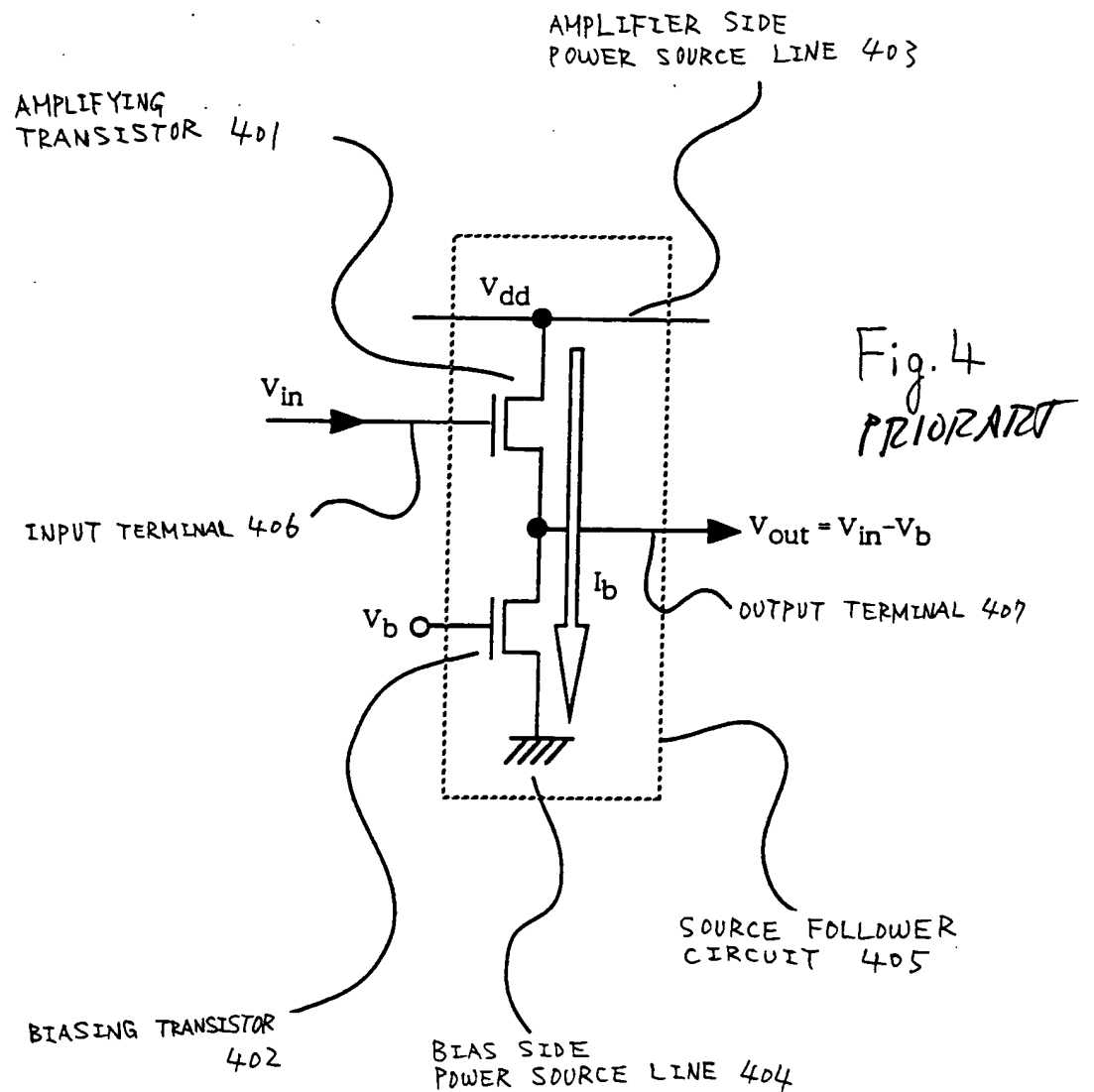


Fig. 3
PRIOR ART



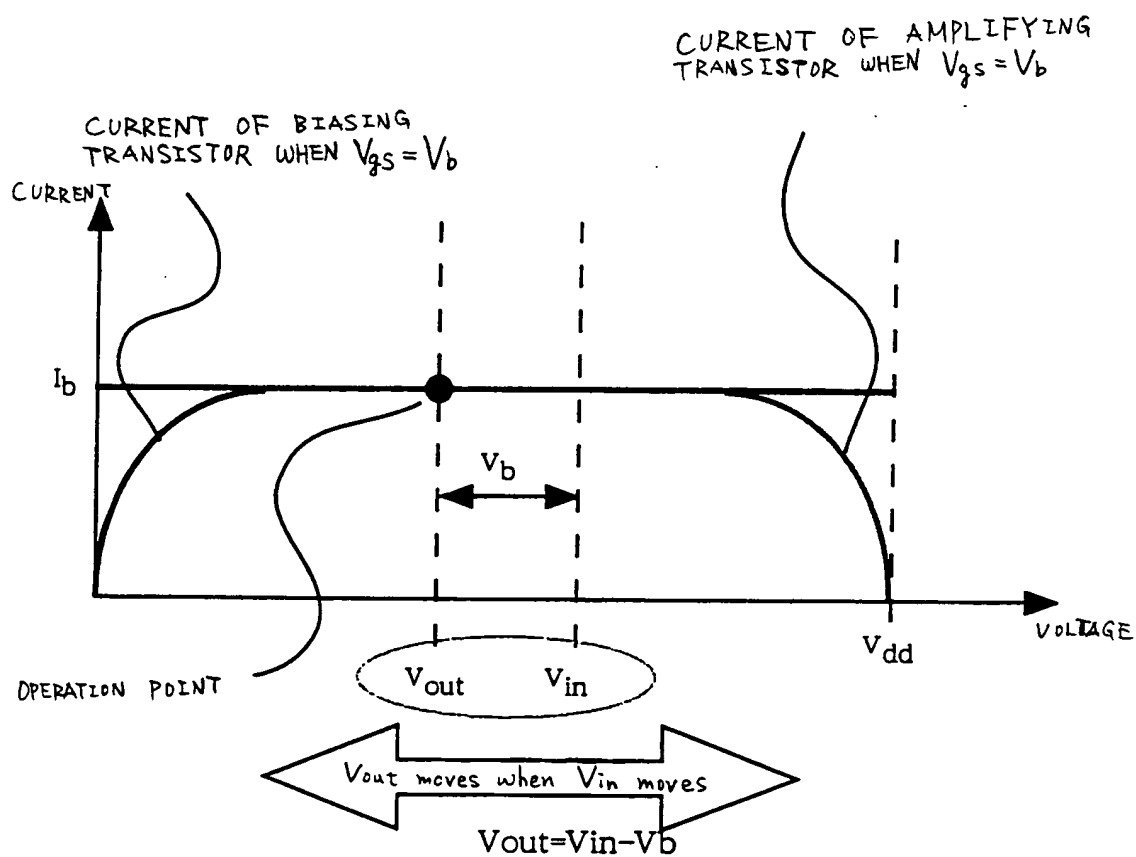


Fig. 5
PRIOR ART

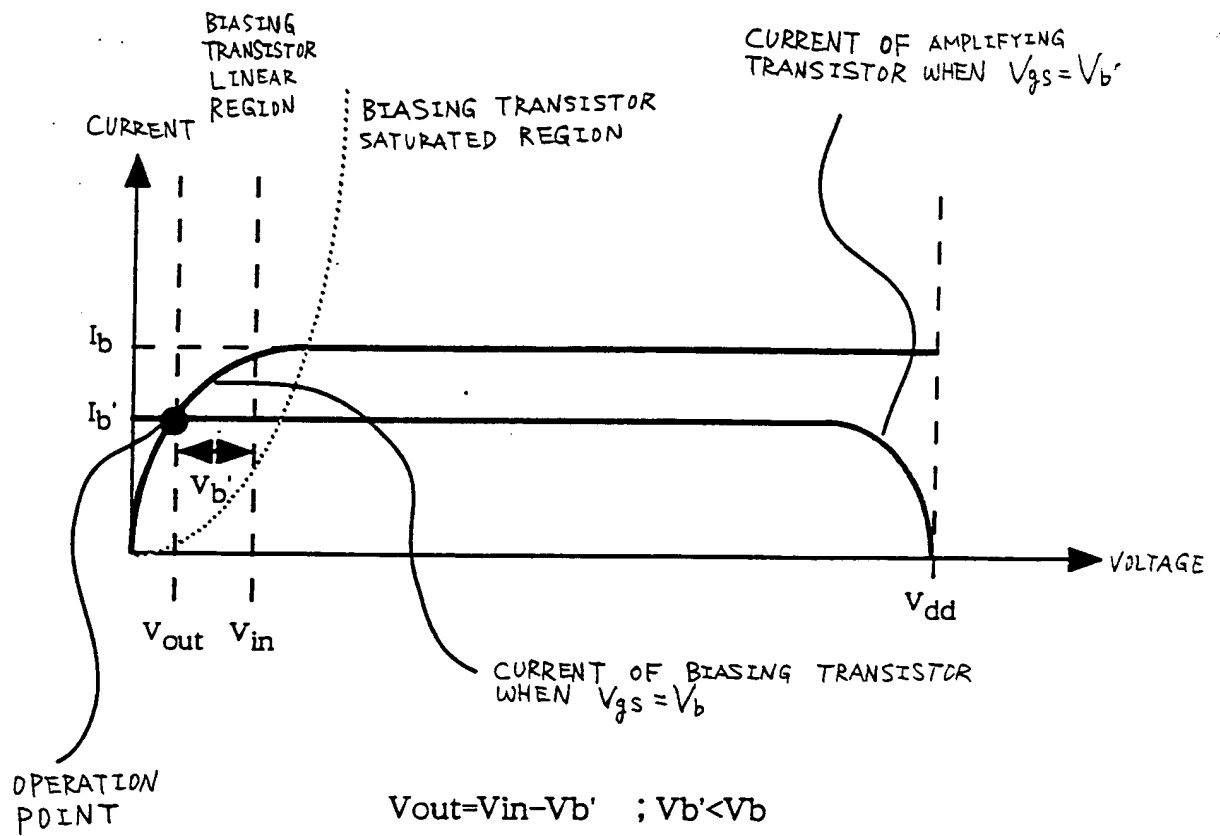


Fig. 6
PRIOR ART

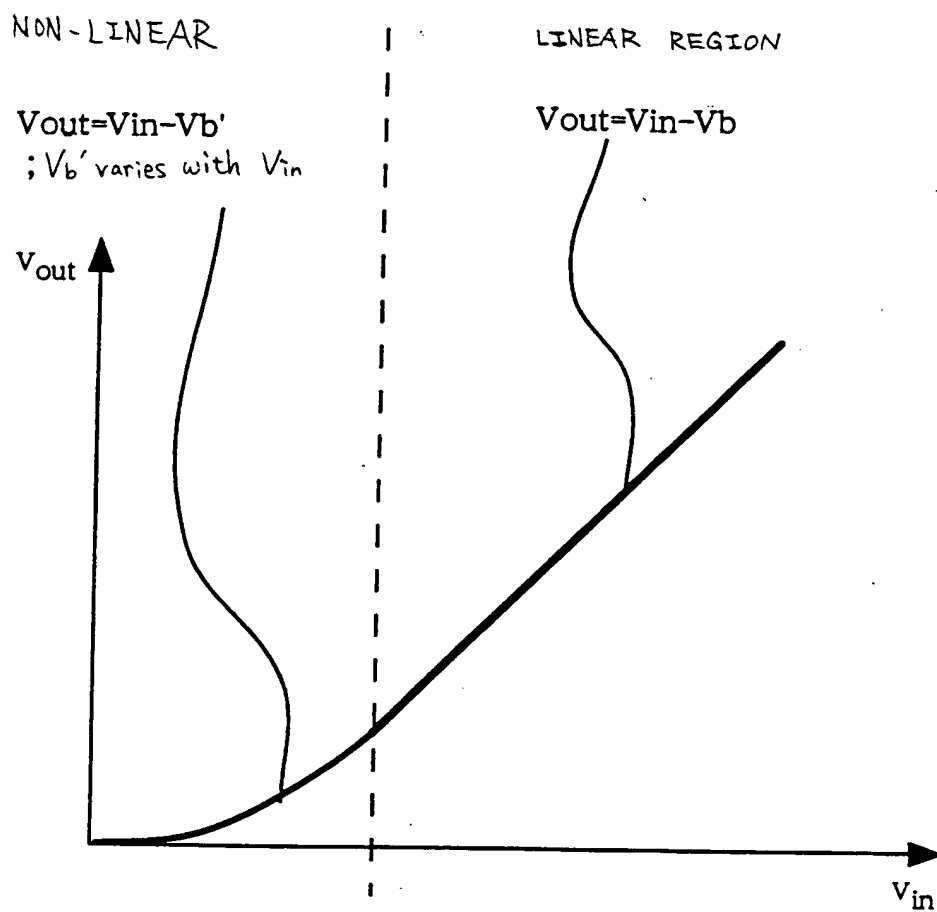
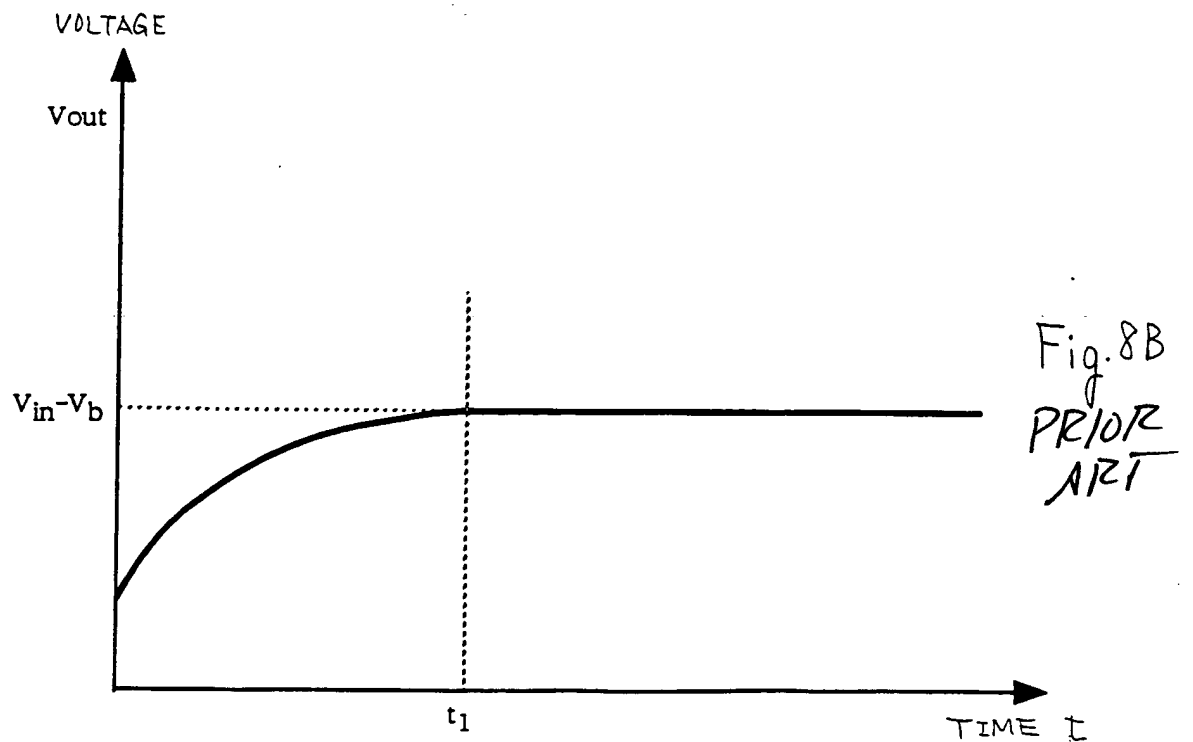
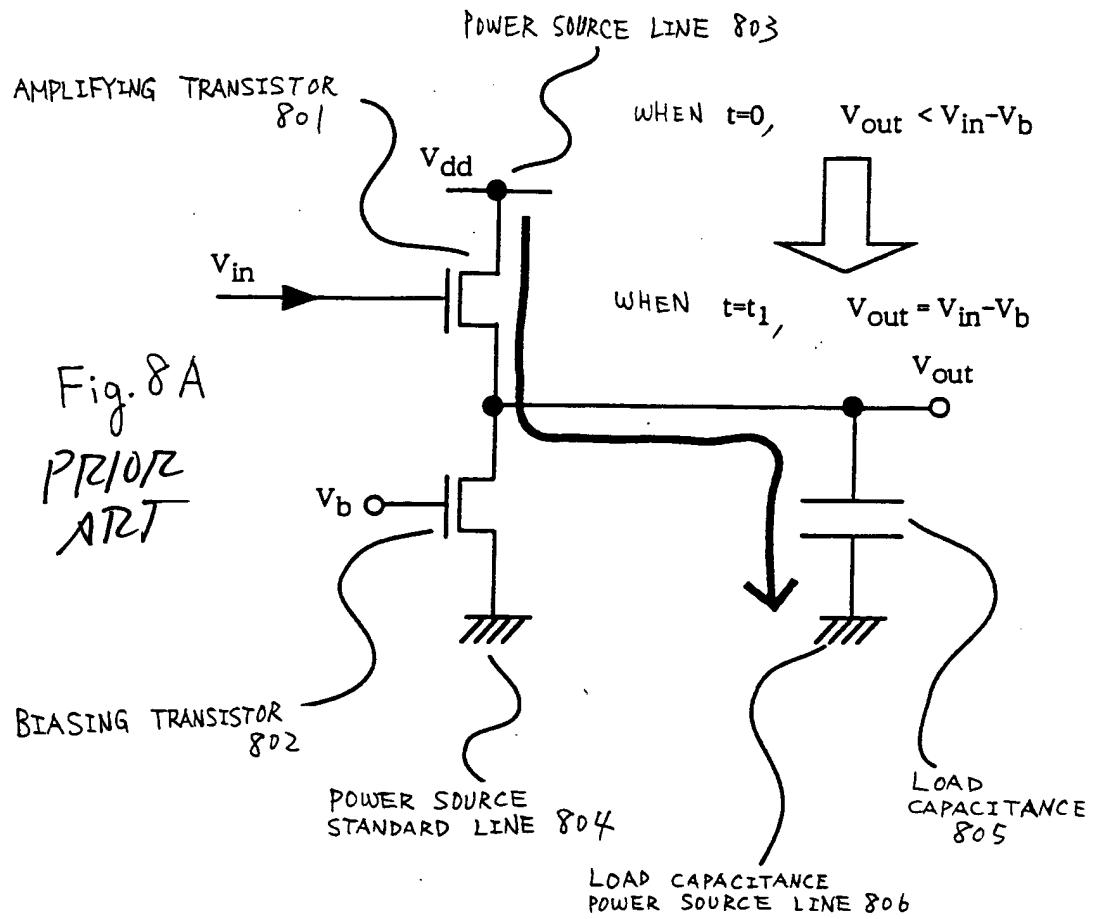
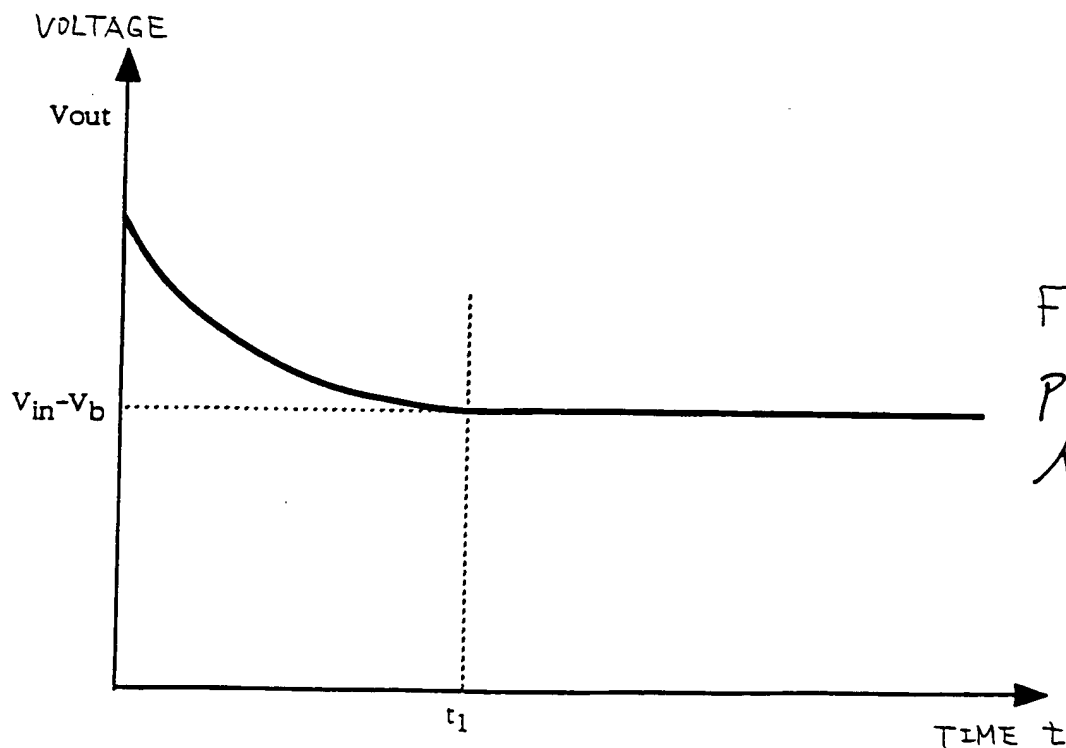
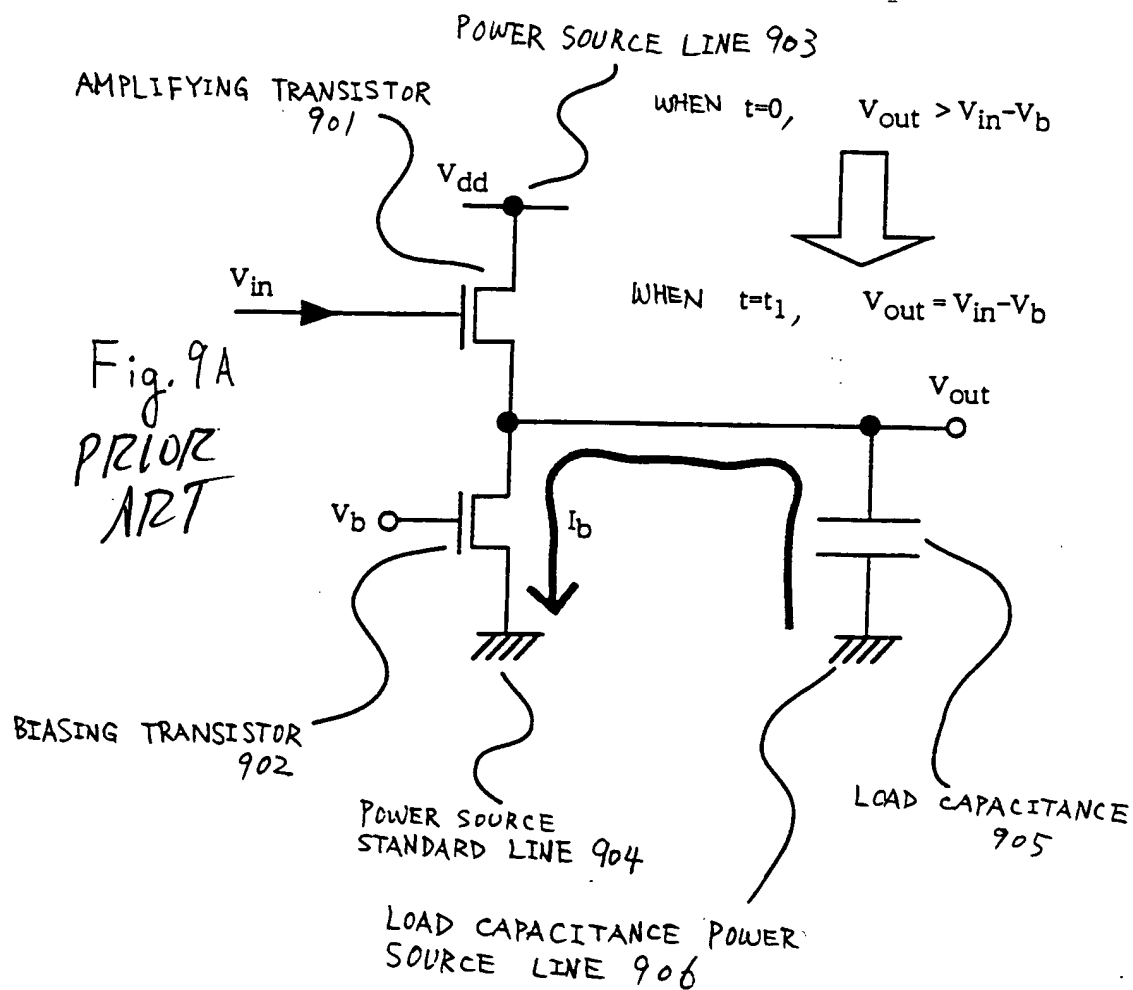


Fig. 7
PRIOR ART





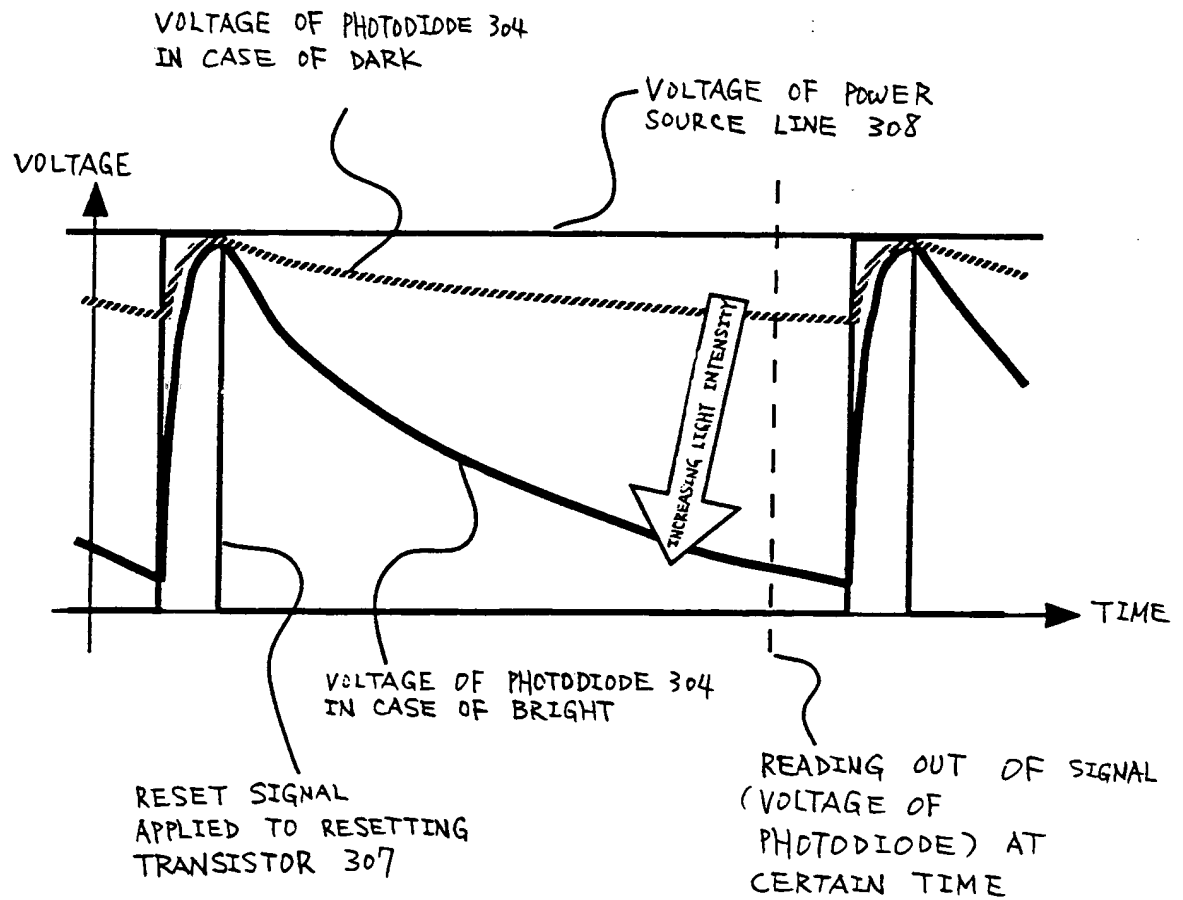


Fig. 10
PRIOR ART